

B1 wherein said head is operatively coupled to said fluid source with at least one nozzle, and operatively coupled to said vacuum with at least one nozzle, wherein said at least one nozzle operatively coupled to said fluid source and said at least one nozzle operatively coupled to said vacuum are generally opposed.

B2 3. (Twice Amended) The evacuation apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising at least a plurality of manifold barriers carried by said plenum, wherein said manifold barriers cover a portion of said inner periphery adjacent to said one nozzle operatively coupled to said fluid source.

B3 8. (Twice Amended) The evacuation apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising at least one baffle located in said plenum between said nozzle operatively coupled to said fluid source and said central opening.

B4 9. (Amended) The evacuation apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said fluid source supplies generally particle-free air to said head.

10. (Amended) The evacuation apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a generally unidirectional, laminar airflow runs through said central opening in the general direction of said vacuum.

B5 11. (Twice Amended) The evacuation apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a piece of sheet material, said apparatus operably coupled to said piece of material.

⁹ 10. (Amended) An evacuation apparatus for removing gaseous byproducts or noxious vapors comprising:

B6 a head operatively coupled to a vacuum and a fluid source, said head substantially defining a plenum having an outer surface, said plenum having an inner periphery defining a generally central opening, said plenum having an opening in said outer surface adjacent to the inner periphery; and a plenum support for preventing the plenum from collapsing when a low pressure is established therein, wherein said plenum has a bottom wall, wherein said bottom wall of said plenum includes an adhesive layer for adhesive attachment of said head around a surgical site.

¹⁰ 11. (Amended) The evacuation apparatus according to claim ⁹ 10, wherein said plenum is constructed of a generally non-porous material.

¹¹ 12. (Amended) The evacuation apparatus according to claim ⁹ 10, wherein said plenum support is constructed of a generally porous material.

¹² 13. (Amended) The evacuation apparatus according to claim ⁹ 12, wherein said fluid source supplies an inert gas through said head.

37 ¹³ 14. (Twice Amended) The medical appliance according to claim ¹³ 14, wherein said working head defines a plenum having an outer surface, said plenum having an opening in said outer surface adjacent to an inner periphery of said central opening of said plenum.

B 8 19. (Twice Amended) The medical appliance according to claim ~~18~~¹⁵, further comprising at least one baffle located in said plenum between said at least one inlet and said at least one central opening.

B 9 20. (Twice Amended) A method for removing fumes from a workspace, comprising;

- providing the workspace;
- providing a head, said head substantially defining a plenum having an outer surface, said plenum having an inner periphery defining a generally central opening, said plenum having an opening in said outer surface adjacent to the inner periphery, said plenum having a plenum support for preventing the plenum from collapsing when a low pressure is established therein;
- providing a vacuum source;
- providing a source of ultra-clean air;
- coupling said head and said vacuum source;
- coupling said head to a connection point of said source of ultra-clean air; and
- actuating said vacuum source and said source of ultra-clean air, whereby fumes are removed from the workspace.

B 10 21. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim ~~20~~²⁰, said head further comprising a plurality of manifold barriers carried by said plenum, wherein said manifold barriers cover a portion of said inner periphery adjacent to said connection point of said source of ultra-clean air.

22. (Twice Amended) A method for removing fumes from a workspace, comprising;

- providing the workspace;

41

B

providing a head, said head substantially defining a plenum having an outer surface, said plenum having an inner periphery defining a generally central opening, said plenum having an opening in said outer surface adjacent to the inner periphery, said plenum having a plenum support for preventing the plenum from collapsing when a low pressure is established therein;

providing a vacuum source;

coupling said head and said vacuum source;

actuating said vacuum source, whereby fumes are removed from the workspace;

providing a fluid source, and operably coupling said head and said fluid source at a fluid source connection point;

actuating said fluid source to provide a flow of fluid to said head, wherein said head further comprises at least one baffle located in said plenum between said fluid source connection point and said central opening.

²⁷ 26. (Amended) The method of claim ²² 26, wherein at least a portion of said fluid comprises an inert gas.

²⁴ 27. (Amended) The method of claim ²² 25, wherein said fluid is ultra-clean air.

²⁷ 28. (Amended) An evacuation apparatus for removing gaseous byproducts or noxious vapors comprising:

a head operatively coupled to a vacuum and an ultra clean fluid source, said head substantially defining a plenum having an outer surface, said plenum having an inner periphery having a generally central opening defining a 360 degree arc, said plenum having an opening in said outer surface adjacent to the inner periphery so that laminar air flow from the ultra-clean

42

B

fluid source and the vacuum act together to evacuate gaseous material across an area defined by the 360 degree arc; and

312

a plenum support for preventing the plenum from collapsing when a low pressure is established therein.

B13

~~31~~ 32. (Amended) The evacuation apparatus according to claim ~~28~~ 29, further comprising a piece of sheet material, said apparatus operably coupled to said piece of material.

B14

~~33~~ 42. (Amended) An evacuation apparatus for removing gaseous byproducts or noxious vapors comprising:

a head operatively coupled to a vacuum and an ultra-clean fluid source, said head substantially defining a plenum having an outer surface, said plenum having an inner periphery having a generally central opening surrounding a surgical site and through which the ultra clean fluid source provides a laminar air flow wherein an outflow of the ultra-clean fluid source is less than or equal to an inflow of the vacuum, said plenum having an opening in said outer surface adjacent to the inner periphery; and

a plenum support for preventing the plenum from collapsing when a low pressure is established therein,

wherein said head is operatively coupled to said fluid source with at least one nozzle, and operatively coupled to said vacuum with at least one nozzle, wherein said at least one nozzle operatively coupled to said fluid source and said at least one nozzle operatively coupled to said vacuum are generally opposed.

B15

~~40~~ 44. (Amended) The evacuation apparatus according to claim ~~42~~ 43, further comprising a piece of sheet material, said apparatus operably coupled to said piece of material.

43

B

~~45~~ (Amended) An evacuation apparatus for removing gaseous byproducts or noxious vapors comprising:

a head operatively coupled to a vacuum and an ultra-clean fluid source, said head substantially defining a plenum having an outer surface, said plenum having an inner periphery having a generally central opening surrounding a surgical site and through which the ultra clean fluid source provides a laminar air flow wherein an outflow of the ultra-clean fluid source is less than or equal to an inflow of the vacuum, said plenum having an opening in said outer surface adjacent to the inner periphery; and

a plenum support for preventing the plenum from collapsing when a low pressure is established therein,

wherein said plenum has a bottom wall, wherein said bottom wall of said plenum includes an adhesive layer for adhesive attachment of said head around a surgical site.

~~46~~ (Amended) The evacuation apparatus according to claim ~~45~~, wherein said plenum is constructed of a generally non-porous material.

~~47~~ (Amended) The evacuation apparatus according to claim ~~45~~, wherein said plenum support is constructed of a generally porous material.

~~48~~ (Amended) The evacuation apparatus according to claim ~~45~~, wherein said fluid source supplies an inert gas through said head.

44

B